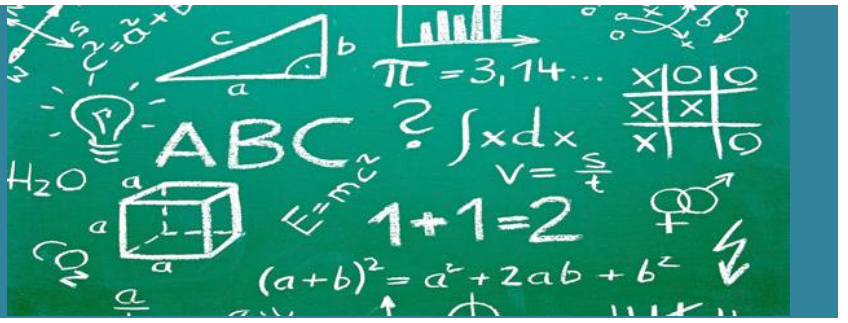


# TIMSS SA Newsletter



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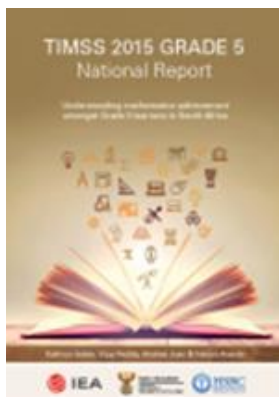
February 2018

Volume 3;  
Issue 1

## Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study National Reports

We are pleased to present the South African Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) National Reports. South Africa participated in the TIMSS for the fifth time in 2015. TIMSS assesses learners in mathematics and science, as well as exploring the relationship between school and home contexts and learner performance in these subjects. In 2015, South Africa participated in TIMSS at the Grade 9 level, and for the first time at the Grade 5 level.

### Grade 5 National Report



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Providing the first, nationally representative, internationally comparative compendium of data on Grade 5 learners in South Africa, the report is a new indicator of the health of our educational system. The analyses describe in detail the current picture of achievement for learners in the country, highlighting key individual, family, school and provincial differences. The results also include key developments concerning preschool attendance, early learning environments, as well as the importance of educational expectations and academic beliefs, and the damaging effects of bullying. The findings highlight the importance of early achievement and the need to understand the multiple layers of influence on educational pathways, with the conclusions and recommendations highlighting an unequal, yet treatable system.

### Grade 9 National Report



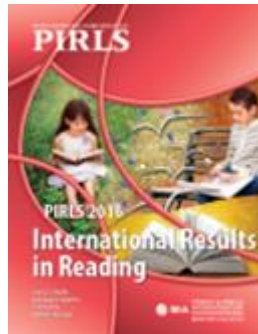
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This was the fifth time that South Africa participated in TIMSS at the grade 8/9 level since 1995. In addition to the learner assessment data, the study also collected contextual information from learners, teachers and school principals, making it possible to explore the factors that are related to Grade 9 mathematics and science achievement. This report was written to provide some perspective about how the results of international assessments can be used to provide meaningful national insights. Sections of the report bring together the main findings based on descriptive, inferential and psychometric analysis of the data. The report concludes with recommendations of how the results relate to policy and practice for improving educational quality.

## What's happening in research?

### Progress in International Reading Literacy Study Reports

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) is conducted every five years and assesses the reading achievement of learners in their fourth year of schooling. The fourth round of PIRLS was conducted in 2016, and the international results can be found [here](#).



PIRLS was conducted in South Africa with 12 810 Grade 4 learners and 5 282 Grade 5 learners. The South African highlights report can be found [here](#).

## Interested in using TIMSS data for research?

If you are interested in working with us on publications based on the TIMSS data, please [contact us](#)

[www.timss-sa.org.za](http://www.timss-sa.org.za)